

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 01232 142021Z

63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 1232

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, FR

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF JUSTICE COMMENTS ON IMPLICATIONS
OF CABINET CHANGES FOR FRENCH EC POLICY

REF: PARIS 940 B. PARIS 1104

1. IN RADIO INTERVIEW JANUARY 13, MINISTER OF JUSTICE,
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PAGE 02 PARIS 01232 142021Z

JEAN LECANUET CHARACTERIZED JANUARY 12TH FRENCH

CABINET SHIFT AS REFLECTING GOF DETERMINATION TO "PROMOTE EUROPEAN UNION." IN THIS CONNECTION, HE CITED APPOINTMENTS OF TWO REPUTED EUROPEANISTS, RAYMOND BARRE AND JEAN-FRANCOIS PONCET, TO THE POSTS OF MINISTER FOR FOREIGN COMMERCE AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. LECANUET ALSO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD "INTENSIFY ITS EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT POPULAR ELECTIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT."

2. COMMENT: AS NOTED IN PARIS 1104, LECANUET WAS ACCORDED ADDITIONAL TITLE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN CABINET SHAKE-UP AND IS SEEN AS A WINNER IN THE EXERCISE. IT IS THUS INTERESTING THAT LECANUET, HIMSELF A CENTRIST WITH PRONOUNCED PRO-EUROPEAN VIEWS, CHOOSE IN HIS FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE SHAKE-UP TO DESCRIBE THE RESULT AS A HARBINGER OF INCREASED FRENCH EFFORTS TOWARD EUROPEAN UNIFICATION. WE SUSPECT THAT HIS STATEMENTS REFLECT GISCARD'S VIEWS AS WELL AND CONSTITUTE A WARNING TO GAULLISTS AND OTHERS THAT THE PRESIDENT INTENDS TO HAVE HIS WAY ON THE EUROPEAN ISSUE.

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